

FFA chapter teaches local third graders agricultural importance

DAKOTA OSWALT
News Reporter | @doswalt_NWMSRN

The Agriculture Education on the Move program has partnered with the Northwest Technical School FFA Chapter and third grade students from St. Gregory Barbarigo School to promote the learning of Missouri agriculture. The program, initially brought forth by the Missouri Farmers Care Foundation in 2011, aims to help elementary students build knowledge on agriculture.

Missouri Farmers Care Executive Director Ashley McCarty said the organization is happy about the program's implementation in Nodaway County.

"Selected student leaders spend one hour a week for 10 weeks enhancing agricultural literacy in local third-grade classrooms," McCarty said in an email to The Missourian. "This program curriculum meets state standards and objectives, augmenting classroom learning. Hands-on, engaging lessons are presented on crops, livestock, nutrition, careers and soil and water conservation topics."

AEOTM hosted a training day Aug. 29 for FFA educators in partnership with Northwest. The Northwest Technical School FFA program is teaching AEOTM at St. Gregory Barbarigo School in Maryville, and Northeast Nodaway FFA is also teaching AEOTM.

“

I just think it's important that we are educating the younger elementary kids about agriculture and where their food comes from.”

DILLON STIENS

AGRICULTURE TEACHER

Dillon Stiens, an agriculture teacher at the Northwest Technical School, said while the AEOTM partnership is with St. Gregory third graders, he hopes to get all schools in the Maryville community involved with the program. The technical school still needs to look at the logistics of incorporating bigger schools into the mix.

"Missouri is ranked in the top 10 in rising cotton production — not very many people know that," Stiens said. It's important to know what Missouri agriculture truly is and what all we grow in our state."

AEOTM provides the lesson plans for the students. Two Northwest Technical School students will typically lead one group lesson per week with an interactive activity that follows, like planting a soybean.

Although the program has only been in place for a few months, Stiens said he hopes to expand it.

"I just think it's important that we are educating the younger elementary kids about agriculture and where their food comes from," Stiens said. "We're trying to advocate as a whole in the community at that level."

SEE AGRICULTURE | A4

DEADLINE DETOUR



INFOGRAPHIC BY SAVANNAH ATHY-SEDBROOK DESIGN EDITOR

Federal aid application due dates moved back

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has changed its form opening dates and deadlines after altering the

way information is received. In previous years, the FAFSA application has opened Oct. 1, but this year it is not opening until sometime in December. Director of Financial Assistance at Northwest Charles Mayfield said many schools are setting a tentative timeline for when they get back from winter break or Jan. 1.

"We'll be back in the office in early January to be able to help, so I've seen some schools that are just promoting Jan. 1," Mayfield said. "Just be ready to file the FAFSA starting Jan. 1. It might be available before that, but, as far as giving students a date to plan for, it will be available in January as far as we know."

The FAFSA changed its dates because of a bill Congress passed in 2019 that made substantial changes to the way financial aid processes work. The changes FAFSA is making is part of the Simplification Act, and all changes should be completed by July 1 of next year. FAFSA Sall tax information will fully belong to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and students will not see their tax information unless they specifically ask.

"So I think the big takeaway is that the tax information we used to have access to belonged to the student, or belonged to the parent, and now it belongs to the IRS in the future," Mayfield said.

He said there will be communication to the students closer to the opening of the FAFSA and also as it gets closer to the deadline.

SEE FAFSA | A4

Northwest to perform "Little Women"

RAIEA SALERNO
News Reporter | @RaieaS

Theatre Northwest will be performing "Little Women." The original 1968 story will have a play adaptation Nov. 9-12 at the Studio Theater in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts.

Written by Louisa May Alcott, the novels explore four main women: sisters Josephine, Beth, Amy and Meg March. It is a coming-of age story based on Alcott's life in welfare and poverty.

Shelby Wiese, Bridget Hopkins, Billie McCoy and Paige Waddingham play the four main leads of the story. The auditions were held during the first week of classes, Aug. 21-25.

Hopkins, the lead for Amy March, is a freshman pursuing a major in speech and theater education. Amy March is the youngest sibling in the series, given vanity and obsession with pretty possessions as her character. She adores visual beauty.

"I have always loved 'Little Women,'" Hopkins said. "I've had some heart toward the play. I was excited because I genuinely thought I connected with her the most, so I thought I could play her the most."

"Little Women" has been a recognizable form of literature and showpiece since the 19th century. Numerous plays and adaptations have been made since its publication release.

The director of the performance, Kathryn Bilbo, is the artistic director and the associate professor of theater in the theater department. She said she is excited to direct



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER

Theatre Northwest's freshman Bridget Hopkins playing Amy March, sophomore Paige Waddingham as Beth March, freshman Kai Newbrough as Hannah and junior Sam Williams as Abigail "Marmee" March rehearse Oct. 29 for the upcoming performance of "Little Women."

the show this year with the cast and workers to help the play be brought to stage.

"I'm really proud of my actors," Bilbo said. "They're doing great, and we're in a really good place with rehearsals. I'm really excited."

Waddingham is a sophomore pursuing a major in speech theater education and is playing Beth March. Beth March is the third daughter of the four. She is a quiet and virtuous music lover and a big people pleaser.

"I have a little soft spot for the story," Waddingham said. "I wanted to be able to

work with previous and future actors and grow as a person. I can be quiet and feel overlooked sometimes, just like Beth."

In general, all of the leads relate to the roles they play due to their own family dynamics and personalities. The main commonality between the actors and their roles is the connection to their own lives. So, the actors said they were excited to be cassettes as the lead characters they could relate to.

SEE THEATRE | A4

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PHOTOS BY AARON HARE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT



A trick-or-treater takes candy at the Monday night Trunk or Treat Oct. 30. First Christian Church has hosted a Trunk or Treat for the past eight years.



Trick-or-treater Ellie Sportsman holds out her bag as Rain and Gina Johnson hand her candy at First Christian Church’s Trunk or Treat Oct. 30. Nearby, Maryville’s downtown hosted merchants, organizations, churches and individuals who handed out treats to children.



Omi Johnson hands out candy to children alongside siblings Dorthia Johnson and Jayden Johnson.



Jay Ripple and Virginia Ripple hand out candy to Claire Peterson and her daughter at the Trunk or Treat hosted by the First Christian Church.



Karla Parman talks to trick-or-treaters as they take candy out of a bowl in her car. Parman’s SUV was decorated with different Halloween characters by Omni Johnson.

Native American Heritage Month celebrates identity

RAIEA SALERNO
News Reporter | @RaieaS

Native American Heritage Month in the U.S. has been celebrated since 1990. The month recognizes the tribal heritages, histories and language in the U.S.

At Northwest, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion organizes the heritage month each November. It has been celebrated for a long time, Senior Coordinator of Diversity Jessie Peter said.

The events decided for this year’s theme coordinated with the

Bureau of Indian Affairs’ theme, “Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity,” which embraces Indigenous communities and their many accomplishments. Last year, the theme was “Revitalizing Indigenous Connections.”

“Native American heritage and contributions have been acknowledged and celebrated for a long time,” Peter said in an email to The Missourian. “The events organized give us the opportunities to do just that.”

There are four planned events for November. The events planned

go along with this year’s theme.

A guest speaker, Autumn Rose Miskweminanocauq (Raspberry Star Woman) Williams, will attend at 7 p.m. Nov. 1 in the Charles Johnson Theater in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building. She was born and raised on Shinnecock Reservation in Southampton, New York. Miskweminanocauq Williams works as an activist and motivational speaker. She was a former Miss Native American USA in 2017.

Beyond the Circle Dancers will perform 6-8 p.m. Nov. 8 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. Through Native American song and dance, the exchange of culture represents the Navajo, Ottawa, Ojibwe, Zuni and Apache tribes. They have powwowed and performed all over the United States.

“Gather,” a movie exploring the Native Americans on the front lines of a growing movement of spiritual reconnection destroyed by genocide, will also have a discussion facilitated by Robert Voss, associate professor of history, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Union Ballroom.

Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Shay Malone will facilitate the discussion of Land Acknowledgement from noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 16 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Living Room. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the history of land acknowledgment. They will also learn how they can create and reciprocate relationships with Indigenous communities across the United States.

All events are free for anyone

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

Nov. 1

Guest Speaker Autumn Rose Miskweminanocauq Williams

7 p.m.
Charles Johnson Theater

Nov. 8

Beyond The Circle Dancers

6-8 p.m.
J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom

Nov. 15

Movie “Gather”

6-8 p.m.
J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom

Nov. 16

Discussion of Land Acknowledgement through Dr. Shay Malone

Noon-1 p.m.
J.W. Jones Student Union Living Room



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to participate.

The Otoe (Jiwére), Ioway (Báxoje) and Missouria (Nutachi) tribes originally inhabited part of Northwest. Others, like Sac and Fox, migrated here due to the intrusion by white settlers.

Voss stresses the importance of the heritage month. He teaches Native American history as part of his curriculum. His research focuses on the history of Native American resilience in the 19th century. Voss recommends Martin Scorsese’s new film, “Killers of the Flower Moon,” a movie exploring the Osage murders for more background and awareness.

“Our communities are enriched by the presence and contributions of Native American individuals and groups, and it is incumbent upon all of us to honor that legacy,” Voss said in an email to The Missourian. “By engaging with our shared history, confronting the uncomfortable truths of the past and celebrating the diversity that strengthens us, we can forge a path toward a more inclusive and equitable future.”

Arthur Caswell Parker, given the name Gawaso Wanah by the Seneca tribe, proposed the idea of such a day like Native American Heritage Month. He did so before the official heritage month proposal in the ‘90s, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

First starting in 1990, President George Bush dedicated all of November to the remembrance and history of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and affiliated island communities to ensure the thriving history and sovereignty for continuing generations. The month acknowledges the assimilation and relocation and tribal histories.

“It is a time to recognize the resilience and vibrancy of Native American communities, while also acknowledging the scars of the past,” Voss said.



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Maryville softball first-year coach Tyler Nickerson aids junior third baseman Brylie Henggeler with her face mask at the game against Savannah Oct. 3.

New coach hopes to leave impact on students, players

TANNER HUDNALL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Students want that one teacher they can relate to. Tyler Nickerson hopes to be that teacher for the students at Maryville High School. Nickerson is a first-year social studies teacher. He teaches freshman American history and sophomore world history. Nickerson said he always wanted to be a teacher — he wanted to make an impact in students' lives. Nickerson graduated from Northwest this past spring with a bachelor's degree in social studies with an emphasis on history. He said the decision to attend Northwest had many factors including location, but he said the education program was the main draw for him. Nickerson said he enjoyed his time at Northwest, playing intramurals all four years. He said his favorite was softball because of the competitive nature of everyone playing. "You really can't beat the atmosphere at Northwest," Nickerson said. "I loved just about every second of my experience, and I think that is because I got involved wherever I could." The Valk Center is where Nickerson said he spent a lot of his spare time when he was in college, participating in the History Club and asking professors questions to learn more. He said the best word to describe him in college would be a "doer." Nickerson said he was everywhere on campus where anyone was hanging out. His graduation from Northwest could've meant the end of his time in Maryville, but he said he fell in love with the area and

this time student-coaching. The people he met while coaching were a primary reason he wanted to remain a Spoofhound. "The relationships I built were great," Nickerson said. "I've worked with the team for three years, and I just couldn't see myself working anywhere else." Nickerson said he lives by the motto, "You get what you give." He said that is why there is always a smile on his face, and he is ready to help people all the time. Because of this motto, he said, he feels at home in Maryville. Nickerson hails from Moberly, Missouri. In high school, he was a multi-sport athlete, playing football as an offensive guard and a defensive tackle. He also wrestled in high school. Nickerson was a varsity wrestler for all four years of high school. Wrestling is Nickerson's passion. He has been an assistant wrestling coach for Maryville for the past three years before Nickerson was announced as the Spoofhound wrestling coach March 16. "I'm excited for the head coaching opportunity," Nickerson said. "I think my previous



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Maryville softball first-year coach Tyler Nickerson encourages the players at the Class 3 District 8 quarterfinals against St. Joseph-Benton Oct. 12.

experience as a wrestler and as an assistant coach will help me guide the team this season." He said he has high expectations for his team this season, but he also understands that this team is young and this Spoofhound lineup has a lot to learn. Last season, Maryville had then-senior Kort Watkins place fourth in the 285-pound Class 2 match. Nickerson was in his corner, and he said it was one of the coolest experiences of his life. "I mean, that moment is why I coach," Nickerson said. "Being able to be in someone's corner is great, and it's even better when they are able to achieve their goal that they have worked toward for a long time." He is also the softball coach for the Spoofhounds. Maryville

softball went 7-20 under Nickerson in his first season. The team's season ended with a 13-1 loss in the first round of the Class 3 District 8 Tournament to St. Joseph-Benton Oct. 12. Senior shortstop Ella Schulte had a lot to commend about her first-year coach. "This season was fun," Schulte said. "The losing sucked, but I could tell that coach really cared about each and every one of us. I think the next couple of seasons can only go up. There is a good group of girls there and a great coach to lead them." Before this past season, Nickerson's softball knowledge was limited at best. He said he spent a lot of his free time this fall watching international softball. He said when he isn't watching softball, he enjoys watching college wrestling. Nickerson said college wrestling is one of his favorite experiences because of the emotion every wrestler shows — he knows it just means more to every single wrestler. Maryville wrestling began practice Oct. 30. The first competition for the 'Hounds is Nov. 30 at the Clarinda Triangular in Clarinda, Iowa. "I love the heart that each wrestler shows," Nickerson said. "Wrestling is my true wheelhouse, and I love getting the competitive juices flowing, and I can't wait for the season to start."

“ Being able to be in someone's corner is great, and it's even better when they are able to achieve their goal that they have worked toward for a long time.” TYLER NICKERSON MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL AND WRESTLING COACH

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Nov. 2

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Oct. 30
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Perrin Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Perrin Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Forest Village.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in South Complex.

Oct. 29
There was a trespass warning given in Parking Lot 20.

Oct. 28
There is a closed investigation for property damage and a liquor law violation from **Adriana G. Rakestraw**, 18, in Franken Hall.

Oct. 26
There is an open investigation for stealing in Tower Suites.

Oct. 22
There is an open investigation for property damage in Parking Lot 2.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Oct. 30
There was an accident between **Ryan M. Keasey**, 40, and **Mitchell P. Schmitz**, 33, on U.S. Highway 71 and U.S. Highway 136. Keasey was issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic signal.

Oct. 27
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1200 block of East Jenkins Street.
A summons was issued to **Lane N. Dack**, 19, for driving while suspended and an equipment violation on the 700 block of South Market Street.

Oct. 26
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 700 block of South Fillmore Street.
A summons was issued to **Pamela S. Dickey**, 70, for driving while suspended and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 600 block of South Buchanan Street.

Oct. 25
A summons was issued to **Vamshi R. Kasrla**, 23, for not having a valid driver's license and speeding on the 300 block of East Seventh Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 2600 block of South Main Street.

Oct. 24
A bicycle was recovered on East Second Street and North Davis Street.

Oct. 21
There was an accident between **Wyatt D. Ingraham**, 19, and **Roger A. Ibarra Slagado**, 42, on the 100 block of South Main Street.

Oct. 20
There was an accident between **Christopher A. Kelley**, 41, and **Brenda L. Alley**, 47, on the 1500 block of East First Street. Kelley was issued a citation for failure to yield right of way.

Senate continues to table bylaw

DAKOTA OSWALT
News Reporter | @doswalt_NWMSRN

The Student Senate discussed finance and open positions at its Halloween-themed meeting Oct. 31.
For the third-consecutive meeting, the Senate tabled a vote on a co-sponsorship bylaw. This was originally discussed at its Oct. 10 meeting and again Oct. 24.
The bylaw would allow the Senate to sponsor Northwest departments and not just organizations. The budget would be \$2,000 as stated in the Senate's budget Treasurer Abby Linhart created at the beginning of the academic year.
Organizational Finance Co-Chair Brayden Major said he is against moving forward with the bylaw, concerned it would take money out of Senate Committees.
"It's taking money away from the students," Major said. "Last year we ran out of money, we had to find money. We have a \$2,000 cap, but it's not necessarily capped on any department."

In response, Executive President Elizabeth Motazedi said they would make sure the bylaws included a clause to make sure all co-sponsorships are beneficial to students.
"We couldn't just give money to a department for them to go on a trip," Motazedi said. "It would have to be we give money to a department for them to host a celebration for first-generation students or something like that."
Linhart addressed these concerns further, adding that no money will come out of the Organizational Finance Committee's budget.
Motazedi said the executive members see the whole budget, while other Senate members do not, so they should not worry about them dedicating the money to the co-sponsorship bylaw.
The bylaw was tabled for the next meeting. In the meantime, Linhart is putting together a presentation that explains how the bylaw change would impact the budget. This will be presented before the vote at the next meeting.



ONKARABETSE KOIKANYANG PHOTOGRAPHER
Student Senate Organizational Finance Co-Chair Brayden Major stands and addresses the Senate members about potentially creating a bylaw that co-sponsors departments.

In Motazedi's report, she said the Senate is looking to fill vacancies as some members will not return at the end of the calendar year and academic year.
These positions include the unlimited seats of associate members, who are non-voting and serve on one or two committees; the sergeant at arms maintains order during meetings and makes sure the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom is properly set up prior to meetings; a graduate representative must serve on at least one committee; a nontraditional representative can be any student who is part of a nontraditional class and can be a full-time or part-time student; a parliamentarian ensures Student Senate meetings follow the bylaw and advises the Senate on the interpretation of its rules and procedures and the chief of staff coordinates Senate retreats and events.
Motazedi is also looking for

a student to fill the student regent on the Board of Regents, as her own term ends in December. Senate members who are residents in the state of Missouri were encouraged to step up into the leadership role. Freshmen and sophomores are preferred to fill this position so they can serve for two to three years.
"You're kind of like that liaison between students and the Board of Regents," Motazedi said. "It's a really great way to make connections."
Representatives from the Future Business Leaders of America presented to the Senate in hopes of becoming an official organization at Northwest. The group's mission is to provide students with opportunities to gain experience that they will need once they graduate, at both the high school and college level.
Senator Lili Bryant was involved in the FBLA during high

school, which she credits to helping her become the person she is today.
"It's the reason why I chose a career," Bryant said. "However, when I saw there wasn't an FBLA, it almost deterred me from coming to Northwest. I think having this and allowing people to have that space, where they can further explore themselves in their career, would be awesome to have on campus."
The Senate voted to make the FBLA an official organization at Northwest.
Sigma Tau Gamma requested \$1,142.50 from the Senate so members can attend the Noble Man Institute conference in Nashville, Tennessee, this year. At the conference, members of the fraternity learn teamwork skills, participate in activities that build leadership and attend various workshops. The Senate voted to approve its funding.

AGRICULTURE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Agriculture Education on the Move North Missouri Lead Daniel Savage also said the program is showing growth in Nodaway County and across northern Missouri as a whole. The program is implemented in over 15 counties this year, which is up from nearly 10 counties last year.
Savage said the program is important because farmers work 365 days a year to provide basic needs for people. He also said it's fun to see the children light up when the FFA students come in to teach the 10-unit program.
"We're excited for our FFA partners and our FFA students who have wanted to take this on and share this message with our elementary students," Savage said. "It's so important that kids know where their food comes from, how their food is produced and how their animals are cared for and raised. It's fun to talk about all the diversity of Missouri agriculture."

THEATRE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Wiese is a junior pursuing a theater performance major with specialization in dramaturgy. She is playing Meg March.
"I was really excited to get the role because I was already the box office manager, I was so involved," Wiese said. "I was excited to be cast in a bigger role. I'm not typically cast in romantic roles, so I'm excited."
Meg March is the oldest sibling of the four sisters. Meg March's character lies in her gentle and loving personality, regardless of her love for small leisure. Right behind Meg is the lead character of "Little Women," Josephine March, played by sophomore McCoy. She is pursuing a major in speech theater education.
"I was really excited to think about being a part of the production with something people know," McCoy said. "Everyone knows about it. It could help me grow as an actor."

CAST LIST FOR "LITTLE WOMEN"



INFOGRAPHIC BY JULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR

Jo March is the second-oldest sister and the protagonist of the story. She is a tomboyish character and wants nothing more than to hold her family together.
"I think it's going to be a good show," Bilbo said. "The scenes are short, so it goes by faster than it might actually look. We wanted to do a show that was family-oriented. We wanted to do something that was recognizable, especially to the parents."
The performances will be at

7:30 p.m. Nov. 9-11 at the Studio Theater in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts. There will also be a performance at 2 p.m. Nov. 12. The event will cost \$12 per person, but, for students in theater appreciation, the cost is covered in their tuition.
The next performance is the children's show hosted by Alpha Psi Omega. Auditions will be 6-10 p.m. Jan. 10-12 in the Mary Linn Auditorium. Any student at Northwest may audition.

FAFSA

CONTINUED FROM A1

This change in the timeline for the FAFSA has also changed the Standard Scholarships timeline. The Standard Scholarship will now be due April 1 compared to the normal Feb. 1. Now both the FAFSA and Standard Scholarship will be due the same day. April 1 is a tentative date the University is predicting to give students enough time to fill out the forms.
Mayfield said this was not something Northwest was required to do but rather thought it would work better for students if the deadlines were the same.
"We chose to extend the scholarship application to April 1, so that this would still match," Mayfield said. "We didn't want it to be confusing to students."
The results of the Standard

Scholarship applications will also be a little bit delayed, but should be out in April so faculty have the chance to award the scholarships before summer break begins.
Mayfield said faculty on campus were reached out to in order to make sure there was still enough time for selection committees to choose the recipients.
FAFSA has also come out with a prototype to help students prepare for the changes coming. It does not fully represent all of the differences because it does not go through the whole form application process.
Mayfield said this year is only different because of the transition process FAFSA is going through as it is making changes.
"We don't have any reason to think we won't be able to go back to the normal cycle next year," Mayfield said.

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EACH BULLET REPRESENTS ONE MASS SHOOTING THIS YEAR

HOW MANY MORE DEATHS?

People shouldn't be desensitized to mass shootings, reform is needed

The numbers are endless — statistics continue to rise. There have been 586 mass shootings in 2023 in the U.S., averaging out to almost two mass shootings a day. More than 600 people died in these shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

These people began their day thinking they would do what they had planned — work, shopping, a night out or even a concert. They left their homes, said goodbye to loved ones and started their days, not realizing they would never be able to again.

Someone with a gun took that away from them and left their communities, friends and family with nothing but empty spaces that loved ones once filled. How does one person have the means to create such destruction?

This isn't only happening in cities with millions of people, it's happening close to home. In recent years, places as close as St. Joseph have been affected. Missouri has a rate of 2.29 mass shootings per one million residents. There were 126 mass shootings from 2014-2022 in Missouri, according to TIME.

The community of Lewiston, Maine, was left in mourning Oct. 25 when a gunman killed 18 people at a bowling alley and a restaurant. Law enforcement officials confirmed the shooter likely used a Ruger SFAR, which is an AR-10 with a .308 caliber cartridge — more powerful than an AR-15, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. The manufacturer of the AR-10, Ruger, is among the top-five manufacturers of crime guns traced by law enforcement.

The friends and families of those 18 people will forever be impacted by the capability one weapon gave someone.

This has to stop. Unprecedented action needs to be taken by our leaders to create a safer country for Americans to reside in. Otherwise, the numbers will just keep climbing.

Thousands of people have died due to mass shootings in the past decade. Assault weapons with large-capacity magazines have been the weapon of choice for assailants seeking to cause mass casualties, according to Giffords Law Center. These assault weapons are equipped with the means to facilitate mass killings.

This isn't a political debate — it can't be. The U.S. is overdue for real change, Congress needs to take action with gun reform. Only military personnel should have access to weapons that have the ability to kill masses of people in such a short amount of time.

The U.S. had an assault weapons ban from 1994-2004, according to the National Institutes of Health. The NIH compared the period in which assault weapons were banned federally to non-ban periods. The study found that mass-shooting-related homicides were reduced during the banned period and mass shootings were 70% less likely to occur.

Whether it be a total ban on assault weapons or just restrictions on magazine capacity, stricter processes of background checks or further in-depth mental health evaluations, our political leaders need to stop seeing these actions as bipartisan debates. People are dying every day.

It can be common to feel desensitized to these statistics, but it shouldn't be that way. People shouldn't be unphased by breaking news regarding mass shootings, and yet they are. It isn't right that we live in an environment where people are numb to hearing about these incidents.

The numbers are out of control, and no matter how many thoughts and prayers are posted on social media, how many families are destroyed — no matter how many lives are taken — nothing is changing.

This isn't a matter of politics, and people shouldn't see it that way. It's a matter of life and death, safety for future generations and justice for the lives lost and the people impacted.

586

mass shootings have occurred in the United States from Jan. 1 - Nov. 1

SOURCE: GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE

SHOOTINGS FROM Oct. 25 - Nov. 1

SOURCE: GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE

Dallas, Texas

Killed: 0 Injured: 5

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Wilson, North Carolina

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Dodge City, Kansas

Killed: 2 Injured: 2

Indianapolis, Indiana

Killed: 1 Injured: 9

Atlanta, Georgia

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Wiggins, Mississippi

Killed: 1 Injured: 3

Tampa, Florida

Killed: 2 Injured: 15

Chicago, Illinois

Killed: 0 Injured: 15

Azusa, California

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Lake Charles, Louisiana

Killed: 0 Injured: 6

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Killed: 0 Injured: 7

Cumberland, Maryland

Killed: 1 Injured: 3

Decatur, Georgia

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Chula Vista, California

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Texarkana, Texas

Killed: 3 Injured: 3

Chicago, Illinois

Killed: 0 Injured: 4

Mansfield, Ohio

Killed: 2 Injured: 4

Lewiston, Maine

Killed: 18 Injured: 13

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HOME
CONTINUED FROM A8

The Lopers suffered their first loss of the season to Washburn (14-9, 8-8 MIAA) in a sweep Sept. 15 then later fell to Pittsburg State (8-16, 4-12 MIAA) 3-1 Oct. 21.

The Bearcats will take on Fort Hays State (11-14, 5-11 MIAA) after its match with Kearney. Northwest has already defeated Hays this season, with the Bearcats sweeping the Tigers Oct. 6.

“They have a nice left side that they like to run a lot,” Woerth said. “They have a nice middle that is an older player on the team that likes to carry the load for the setter and can be pretty active with what she does.”

Northwest is rolling into the weekend with a pair of wins over No. 25 Washburn and Emporia State (11-13, 5-11 MIAA). The Bearcats were able to sweep the Ichabods Oct. 27 then followed it up with a 3-1 victory over the Hornets Oct. 28.

Redshirt freshman setter Ella Caffery led Northwest in both matches in assists, with 34 during the match against Washburn and 46 against Emporia. Caffery also led the Bearcats in aces during their match with the Hornets with two.

“We’re really excited to go against Kearney — they are a really good team, so it’s fun to play them,” Caffery said. “We’re also excited to put it to Fort Hays again.”

SEMIFINALS
CONTINUED FROM A8

As the postseason begins, Webb said the players’ excitement levels rise with the competition the playoffs bring.

He said the Spoofhounds should have a really exciting weekend with the game against the Dragons.

“The regular season is finished, but, you know, we’ve got a tradition and a culture of winning in the postseason, and that’s exciting,” Webb said. “Playoff football is just a lot of fun. You know, these kids grow up with it. They know what it’s like, they know the importance of being able to host home football games during the playoffs and what home field advantage means.”

Allen said his top priority for the game is to make sure he stays healthy, gets a good amount of sleep every night, watches film and makes good decisions for his team.

“This team is very special to me,” Allen said. “The mood has definitely been different since Lafayette week. We all have the mindset of ‘Go big or go home,’ and lock in to make a great playoff run. Our whole team knows we are capable of doing so, and the effort and commitment is shown by all of us as the playoffs go on.”

Northwest has had its fair share of struggles this season, with most of its losses coming in groups of three. Though, the ‘Cats have shown an ability to bounce back from those slumps with three-game winning streaks to match those stretches of losses.

After the match against Washburn, both Caffery and junior outside hitter Olivia Dir said the Bearcats had players who were doing well individually, but they weren’t clicking as a team before. However, that seemed to turn around during Northwest’s matches against Washburn and Emporia.

“I think we have a lot of confidence in ourselves and each other that we can do our jobs at a high level,” Caffery said.

Northwest is currently ranked fifth in the MIAA and has a chance to secure its spot in the conference tournament. All the Bearcats need is one more win to make it to the MIAA tournament in St. Joseph.

Although Northwest has been showing steady improvements throughout the season, there are still some tweaks the Bearcats need to make to be ready for their final four matches of the regular season.

“From the standpoint of playing Kearney, it’s not just going to be one person or one side of us, we’re all going to have to play well,” Woerth said. “So, working on that and running behind as much as possible, those are some things we’re going to work on.”



Sophomore running back Dominic Myers looks to evade Washburn redshirt freshman defensive back Josh Grant during Northwest football’s 52-31 win Oct. 28. The Bearcats are second in the MIAA in rushing yards per game at 189.3.

NW football
to travel to
Oklahoma
for final road
showdown

WESLEY MILLER
Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

Northwest football is back on the road for the second-straight week after handily defeating Washburn, 52-31, Oct. 28 in Topeka, Kansas.

After a 33-13 loss to No. 2 Pittsburg State on Homecoming of the season, they were able to regain confidence in their blowout over the Ichabods. Coach Rich Wright said he’s been happy so far with his team’s response following the loss to the Gorillas.

“Our kids have been resilient,” Wright said. “They have a lot of pride in this program, a lot of pride in Northwest and themselves. And so, they wanna finish on a high note. We’ve talked extensively

about how it’s going to set us up going into next season.”

Northwest (5-4, 4-4 MIAA) will look to continue its momentum from its triumph over Washburn (1-8, 0-8 MIAA) against Northeastern State (1-8, 0-8 MIAA) at 2 p.m. in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The over 345-mile trek to Tahlequah is the Bearcats’ longest road trip this season. For sophomore safety Shane Fredrickson, he has a plan for long bus rides.

“I like to take naps,” Fredrickson said with a laugh. “I know some of the guys give me stuff about it. They wanna talk, and I’m like, ‘Oh, I need a nap, man.’ I put my headphones on, take a nap — got my neck pillow — so, that’s how I am.”

Wright said one of the toughest aspects of long road trips is the adaptation of the schedule. He said the team will do more work on Thursday than normal, then it will practice at 6 a.m. on Friday.

Wright said the team’s next challenge starts right when it gets off the bus.

“I doubt that there’s going to be a lot of atmosphere — we’re going to have to create our own energy,” Wright said. “And, you know, the drum that I keep beating for our kids is ... this is the last time this will be the makeup

UP NEXT

NW vs. Northeastern State

2 p.m. Nov. 4

Tahlequah, Oklahoma

(of the team). So enjoy the two weeks, play our best and, you know, let it fall where it may.”

While some of the players are looking to find confidence before the offseason, some will look to finish out their collegiate careers strong.

“I mean, all the seniors are awesome,” Fredrickson said. “I loved playing with them the past couple years. And, I think for us, the younger classes, I think we just really want to have this experience — this last road trip and then this last home game — we just want to have fun with them.”

The Bearcats will go against the squad at the bottom of the MIAA in points scored per game and points allowed per game.

The RiverHawks score an average of 10.8 points per contest while giving up an average of 40.7.

“You know, I think they’ve really gotten better,” Wright said. “In the MIAA, you gotta go someplace, and you gotta play well, or you’re gonna have a chance to get beat.”

TOURNAMENT
CONTINUED FROM A8

“I think we all have a good head on our shoulders going into the match,” Theoharidis said. “We’re all going with confidence and looking for wins.”

That seems to be a sentiment shared among the team, as the ‘Cats are looking for their first win over Emporia since 2017.

Junior defender Grace Wineinger logged 82 minutes in the shutout victory over Western. She said the draw this season was in large part because of mistakes made by the Bearcats and not necessarily chances created by the Hornets’ offense.

“With the success we’ve had not being scored on in the last couple of matches, I think it speaks to the work we’ve done on fixing some of those mistakes,” Wineinger said. “I have a lot of confidence going into the weekend — keeping that same defensive mindset — but then also have our forwards like E-Kat (Ekaterina Theoharidis) go in and get some goals for us.”

Northwest will have a chance for a bit of revenge against Emporia. Last season, the Hornets knocked the Bearcats out of the MIAA Tournament with a 1-0 loss in the semifinals.

Wineinger said Northwest is keeping its focus on one game at a time and isn’t really looking at past seasons or results.

“We made the national tournament last year, which is cool and exciting to say, but that was last year,” Wineinger said. “We have to continue moving forward — with how many times we play every team in our

conference. If we kept track of who won the last one, it would get messy. This is just the first round of the tournament, and our job is to go in there and get a win. So, that’s what our focus is on.”

Sophomore goalkeeper Lily Ellis has been named the MIAA Goalkeeper of the Week for the second week in a row. Ellis, who had to miss four games this year due to a concussion, has gone six matches without letting a ball touch the back of the net.

“

We’re all going with confidence and looking for wins.”

EKATERINA
THEOHARIDIS

NORTHWEST SOCCER PLAYER

“

We had some early setbacks, and some things we were trying to manage was with her and getting her back on the field as quickly as we could,” Gordon said. “There was some reservation in some matches, so to see her fully confident and directing things back there — some really difficult shots that come and she makes look routine for her — tells me she’s back to the player she is.”



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ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest men's cross country senior Reece Smith does drills to warm up before going on a team run around campus Sept. 21. In the 2023 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship meet, Smith ran a 3000-meter steeplechase time of 9:07.03 to win the national championship.

Northwest set for regional championship

DESTINY TAYLOR
Sports Reporter | @destinytay04

UP NEXT
Central Region Championships
Nov. 4
Joplin, Missouri

Missouri Southern will host the cross country NCAA Central Region Championship Nov. 4 in Joplin, Missouri, as it has for five consecutive years, and 14 Northwest runners will be in attendance. Last year's competition resulted in the Bearcat women's team placing seventh overall in the 6K with 155 points, and the men placed ninth in the 10K with 285 points. Coach Wick Cunningham said most of the athletes are comfortable with the location because of the team's history on the Tom Rutledge XC Course. He said the course is really good for both athletes and spectators. The course is measured out to 5K with the finish line marked to the south of the start. Freshman Mayson Hartley said she has never competed on the course but isn't too worried about it because the team and coaches are all confident with their abilities. She said she has heard the course has a few hills but, overall, is a great course, like Cunningham said. "The team is on the younger side and switching from a 5K to a 6K was a little adjustment for both myself and the team," Hartley said. "I would say that after having the confidence in our new strategies for the length of the race definitely helped from one race to another." The NCAA Central Region Championship is a combination of three different conferences: the MIAA, the Great America Conference and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Cunningham said the Central Region meet is a tough competition for everyone, and the other conferences put up a really strong

battle. He said the team isn't making changes — it's just putting in the work that's necessary. "Since the conference meet, our team has been looking good in practice," Cunningham said. "We aren't doing anything new or fancy, just the same work that got us here." Freshman Grayson Tapp said he was happy with the way the team competed at the MIAA Championship Oct. 20. The men's team placed third with 98 points, and the women's team placed sixth with 133 points. Tapp was ranked at No. 50, stopping the clock at 26:10.75 in the men's 8K. "We put ourselves in the mix for the top teams, and that's a really good thing, especially in this conference," Tapp said. "From then, I can definitely tell that we have gotten fitter as a whole and have the same end goal in mind that we want to achieve as a team." Junior Tyler Blay said he doesn't think the team has gotten any more fit from the last competition but has noticed a big growth in mentality among his teammates. He said he has run the course in Joplin "a handful of times," and Cunningham has done a great job at preparing the team for the long gradual hills. "We had big goals going into the conference — we wanted to win — and we missed those goals," Blay said. "I think it stung us all a little more than we thought, mentally, but, heading into regionals, we are firing on all cylinders."

Maryville XC girls earn first state bid in 30 years in districts

TANNER HUDNALL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville girls cross country finished fourth in the Class 3 District 4 meet, advancing the team to the Class 3 State Tournament for the first time in 30 years. The boys also competed in the meet and finished in third place, advancing to state for the fifth-straight season. This is the first time ever that both teams advanced to state in the same year.

“ Being able to take a lot of kids down to state, it really just means a lot.”

RODNEY BADE
MHS CROSS COUNTRY COACH

The girls had a successful all-around meet, with the highest scorer once again being junior Katherine Pohren, who placed sixth with a time of 21:11.90. The next highest Spoofhound runners were freshman Audrey Deering and junior Nyah Davis, who placed 16th and 19th, respectively. Audrey Deering had a time of 22:02.86, and Davis finished with a mark of 22:16:44. "I think the cold weather this past weekend helped me," Audrey Deering said. "The cold weather pushed me to get done faster,

and it went better for me than the last time we were at the course." The boys' top finisher was junior Bradley Deering. He finished with a time of 17:02.31, which was good enough for second in the meet. Senior Connor Blackford was the only other Spoofhound to finish in the top 10, as he finished ninth. He finished with a time of 17:29.33. Junior Dylan Masters and senior Colton Berry were the other 'Hounds to finish in the top 25 with times of 18:22.36 and 18:30.19, respectively. Junior Dalton McDonough finished with a mark of 19:08.02, good for 39th. "This weekend was a little chilly, but it went good," McDonough said. "I was a little off my game and finished 30 seconds off of my personal record, but everyone is always there to pick each other up, and we were able to run well as a team and qualify for state again." Coach Rodney Bade said that practices aren't going to change too much this week heading into the state meet. He said it might just be a little less work each day as he is trying to keep his runners fresh, and recovery is the key. This is the first season the girls team had runners qualify for state under Bade. "It means a lot to me," Bade said. "I know it means a lot to the girls as well, but we usually struggle to field five runners, and we're going to state this year. Being able to take a lot of kids down to state, it really just means a lot." Bade said neither squad has too much pressure on them this weekend. He said heading into the weekend, the boys squad,



AARON HARE PHOTOGRAPHER
Maryville boys cross country senior Colton Berry finishes his last 200 feet at the Midland Empire Conference meet Oct. 17. Berry finished within the top 25 with a time of 18 minutes, 30 seconds and 19 milliseconds.

UP NEXT
Class 3 State Tournament
11:30 a.m. Nov. 4
Columbia, Missouri

statistically, are on the outside looking in at the top four. Bade said the girls team has achieved anything the team could've wanted this season, and anything extra just makes the season even sweeter. The state meet for the boys will take place at 9 a.m. and the girls will run at 9:45 a.m. Nov. 4 at the Gans Creek Cross Country Course in Columbia, Missouri. This is the second time the Spoofhounds will run at Gans Creek, the previous time was Sept. 23. Bade said the weather looks great compared to the Class 3 District 4 meet. The district meet featured temperatures around 30 degrees, while the state meet's forecast is sunny and about 60 degrees. "It's gonna be a perfect day to run," Bade said. "That just means the meet will be a wonderful opportunity to run and push ourselves to be great."



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Maryville football senior running back Don Allen weaves through Lafayette defenders before getting tackled near the endzone during the Spoofhounds' 71-14 win over the Fighting Irish Oct. 20. Allen has a combined 288 total offensive yards this season.

Semifinals next up for Maryville

DESTINY TAYLOR
Sports Reporter | @destinytay04

Maryville football ended its regular season with a 71-14 victory over Lafayette-St. Joseph Oct. 20 at the Spoofhounds' senior night. The team captured the outright Midland Empire Conference title and earned a bye week for the beginning of the Class 3 District 8 Tournament.

The Spoofhounds have gone 8-1 leading into the tournament, where they will first play Cameron, who is 5-4, Nov. 3 in Maryville. The last time Maryville competed with Cameron, it won 21-0 Sept. 22 in the 'Hound Pound for its homecoming.

Coach Matt Webb said people look at the stats from the Cameron game and say that Maryville played a strong defensive game because it didn't allow any points. He said he didn't think the third-down conversion percentages were as strong as they should have

“

The regular season is finished, but, you know, we've got a tradition and a culture of winning in the postseason, and that's exciting.”

MATT WEBB
MARYVILLE FOOTBALL COACH

UP NEXT

MHS vs. Cameron
7 p.m. Nov. 3
'Hound Pound

been in order for the offense to have more opportunities to score.

“Nothing is more important than getting off the field on that third down,” Webb said. “So, we need to do a better job as a team. But, It was a 21-nothing win, and I never felt at one point in that game that we were in jeopardy of us losing by any means. I felt like we were in complete control the entire time.”

Cameron has won four games in a row, including its first-round district matchup against Pembroke Hill (42-7), ending the Raiders' season with a 42-7 loss Oct. 27.

Senior running back Don Allen said the Dragons have a very physical and an all-around solid team with a “swarming defense.” He said after senior quarterback Derek Quinlin's injury in the first Cameron matchup, sophomore Matthew Walter was able to fill in, and the Spoofhounds could continue running their spread and wing-T offense.

With Quinlin's recovery, Allen said the team was able to work its offensive strategies even harder and more in-depth. He said the bye week was very helpful for the recovery of eight different injuries across the team and helpful for getting its mindset shifted into playoff mode.

“I think the bye week was much needed,” Allen said. “Practices were short and efficient, which is exactly what we needed as a team to lock in.”

SEE PLAYOFFS | A6

Tournament provides chance for revenge for Northwest

STEVEN CROSBY
Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

It should be a warm and sunny day, perfect conditions for a soccer match, when Northwest soccer begins its postseason run at Emporia State Nov. 3 in the MIAA Tournament.

It could be another tightly-contested matchup, as the last time the Bearcats and Hornets faced off ended in a 2-2 draw Oct. 6 at Bearcat Pitch. Coach Marc Gordon said he is anticipating a physical match.

6

Straight matches
Northwest soccer has
shut out its opponent.

“I think every team will give their best in these moments going into the postseason because of what's on the line,” Gordon said. “We anticipate some direct play. They are going to look to feed their No. 9 (senior midfielder Angela Palmer). She's going to try and break in, she has been very successful for their program over the last four years. I think it's more of a tribute to what effort we are able to contribute to the game and our mental mindset going into it.”

Emporia (9-5-4, 8-2-1 MIAA) is heading into the match on a five-game win streak. Northwest (8-4-6, 5-2-4 MIAA) was close to doing something similar, going on a four-game win streak before tying Missouri Southern (0-15-3, 0-9-2 MIAA) Oct. 27, then beating Missouri Western (5-7-6, 3-4-4 MIAA), 2-0, in the regular season finale Oct. 29.

Freshman forward Ekaterina Theoharidis scored the second goal for the Bearcats against the Griffons. Theoharidis said she is excited for her first postseason match.

SEE TOURNAMENT | A6

UP NEXT

NW vs. Emporia State
2 p.m. Nov. 3
Emporia, Kansas

Volleyball looks to seal playoff spot in final pair of home competitions

STEVEN CROSBY
Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

With the first serve of the match against No. 10 Nebraska-Kearney Nov. 3, Northwest volleyball will start its last week-end of home games.

The last time the two teams met ended in a 3-0 victory for the Lopers Oct. 7. Coach Amy Woerth said she expects Kearney to be tough competition for the Bearcats.

“We know they are going to set their right side, which is our old player Jaden Ferguson (2019-2022),” Woerth said. “They have good middles, and their left sides can play as well. So, they are gonna prob-

UP NEXT

NW vs. Nebraska-Kearney
6 p.m. Nov. 3
Bearcat Arena

NW vs. Fort Hays State
3 p.m. Nov. 4
Bearcat Arena

ably have a pretty well-rounded offense that they are gonna throw at us.”

Two of Kearney's (23-3, 13-3 MIAA) three losses so far this season have come from opponents Northwest (14-10, 9-7 MIAA) has swept.

SEE HOME | A6



Northwest volleyball junior outside hitter Olivia Dir kneels to return the serve at the team's 3-0 win against Washburn Oct. 27. Dir recorded 18 kills against the Ichabods, setting a personal high for the season and tying her career high.

ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER



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